

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 are pending in this application. Claims 13-22 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-12 and 23-35 are rejected. Claims 3 and 25 are amended hereby. Claims 13-22 are canceled hereby. Claims 6 and 28 have been previously canceled.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1, 2, 8, 10-12, 23, 24, 27, 30, 32 and 33-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,252,086 (Russell et al.), Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, and submits that claims 1, 2, 8, 10-12, 23, 24, 27, 30, 32 and 33-35 are in condition for allowance.

Russell et al. '086 disclose a power distribution unit 61 (Figs. 1-3) shaped to be received within utility raceway 23 partition panel 22 (column 4, lines 35-36). The illustrated power distribution unit for panel 22 generally includes powerway 21 (Fig. 3), outlet blocks 37 and 46, jumpers 62 and 63, power tap-in 28, and an optional light harness 64 (column 4, lines 36-40). Jumper 62 is utilized to electrically connect connectors 243, 245, 250 and 252 in outlet block 37 to selected ones of bus bar conductors 68-71 and 74-77 (column 4, lines 50-52). Jumper 63 is similarly utilized to electrically connect connectors (not shown) in outlet block 46 to selected ones of bus bar conductor 68-71 and 74-77 (column 4, lines 53-56). Outlet block 37 also includes openings 257-260 (Fig. 11) which receive respective ones of blades 136 (Fig. 4) and 137 of bus bar conductors 72 and 73 (column 8, lines 56-59).

In contrast, claim 1 recites in part:

an electrical receptacle connected to said modular wall panel, said electrical receptacle including a connector having a plurality of connector terminals, a plurality of receptacle terminals, and at least one jumper providing connection from one of said plurality of receptacle terminals to one of said plurality of connector terminals ...

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(Emphasis added). Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed or suggested by Russell et al. '086, or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Russell et al. '086 disclose a power distribution unit which includes a powerway with busbars therein, and a jumper which connects an outlet block to some of the busbars. As such, Russell et al. '086 discloses a jumper which connects busbars within a powerway to an outlet block; whereas the present invention claims an electrical receptacle including a connector having a plurality of connector terminals which can be selected by a jumper, which is part of the receptacle, to connect the receptacle terminals with the connector terminals. The present invention can be used with an existing powerway or distribution harness to selectively connect into one of a plurality of circuits within the powerway. Therefore the present invention can be retrofitted into an existing distribution harness. In contrast, the design of Russell et al. '086 requires that both the outlet block and the powerway be changed in order to selectively connect busbars within the powerway to the outlet block. Russell et al. '086 fails to disclose the electrical receptacle including a connector having a plurality of connector terminals, a plurality of receptacle terminals, and at least one jumper providing connection from one of the plurality of receptacle terminals to one of the plurality of connector terminals. To anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim (MPEP 2131), and as Russell et al. '086 fails to disclose at least these limitations, Russell et al. '086 does not anticipate the present invention.

An advantage of the present invention is a simpler and more cost effective design when compared to Russell et al. '086. Another advantage of the present invention is that it can be retrofitted into an existing system.

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For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claim 1, and claims 2, 8 and 10-12 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Similarly, claim 23 recites in part:

An electrical receptacle ... comprising:  
a connector having a plurality of connector terminals;  
a plurality of receptacle terminals;  
at least one jumper providing connection from one of said plurality of receptacle terminals to one of said plurality of connector terminals ...

(Emphasis added). For all of the reasons given above with regard to claim 1, Applicant submits that claim 23, and claims 24, 27, 30 and 32 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Similarly, claim 33 recites in part:

providing an electrical receptacle including a connector having a plurality of connector terminals, a plurality of receptacle terminals ...  
inserting said at least one jumper into said electrical receptacle ... and  
connecting one of said plurality of receptacle terminals to one of said plurality of connector terminals using said jumper.

(Emphasis added). For all of the reasons given above with regard to claim 1, Applicant submits that claim 33, and claims 34 and 35 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 7, 9, 29 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious by U.S. Patent No. 5,252,086 (Russell et al.), Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Claims 7, 9, 29 and 31 are dependent upon independent claims 1 and 23. Claims 1 and 23 are distinguished from the prior art including Russell et al. '086 as described above; therefore, any dependent claims, including claims 7, 9, 29 and 31, are distinguished from the prior art including Russell et al. '086. For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that claims 1

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and 23, and claims 7, 9, 29 and 31 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Responsive to the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious by U.S. Patent No. 5,252,086 (Russell et al.), Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Claim 5 is dependent upon independent claim 1. Claim 1 is distinguished from the prior art including Russell et al. '086 as described above; therefore, any dependent claims, including claim 5 is distinguished from the prior art including Russell et al. '086. For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that claim 1, and claim 5 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

At page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that claims 3-4 and 25-26 are allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, for which courtesy the Examiner is thanked. Claim 3 has been amended to include all of the limitations of the base claim 1. Claim 4 depends from claim 3. Claim 25 has been amended to include all of the limitations of the base claim 23. Claim 26 depends from claim 25. For all of the reasons, Applicant submits that claims 3-4 and 25-26 are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

It is further submitted that the requested amendments to the claims, submitted after the Office Action designated as Final, should be entered, in that the amendment will place all remaining claims in condition for allowance. Further, the requested amendments to the claims simplify the issues for a potential appeal by reducing the number of claims under consideration and clarifying the claimed structure.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are GRD0251.US


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therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicant has overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicant hereby conditionally petitions therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,



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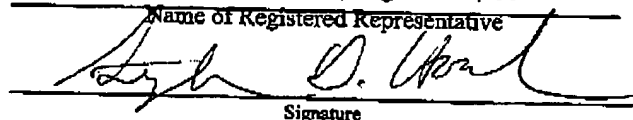
Agent for Applicant

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, on: February 16, 2006.

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Name of Registered Representative



Signature

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Date

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